

# Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

Tel: 03 9877 2292 | Fax: 03 9894 3359

Email: [blackburnsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:blackburnsouth@cam.org.au) | Web: [www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth](http://www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth)



**WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2018**  
**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B**

**THE YEAR OF YOUTH & PARISH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PROGRAM**

*This week's readings: Wis 7:7-11; Heb 4:12-13; Gospel Mark 10:17-30*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER:** Jesus reminds us in this gospel that to join him in bringing about the reign of God requires absolute commitment and a willingness to give up that which is most precious to us. The rich man who approached Jesus was genuine in his desire to fulfil all the requirements of the Law to attain eternal life. Jesus quoted to him all the commandments that deal with right relationships with others. The man is able to tick these off and assure Jesus that he has been doing this since childhood – a pretty big claim in the first place! Then Jesus 'looked steadily at him and loved him' – he looked on him with the eyes of love; the eyes that see to the heart of a person, and in that look knew what was most important to the man. Jesus could tell by his dress no doubt that the man was wealthy and so it is this aspect of the man's life that Jesus chooses to challenge him about. This gospel shouldn't necessarily be read as a condemnation of wealth – rather, it is the man's inability to surrender his wealth that Jesus challenges. Jesus sees to the heart of the man and asks if he is willing to give up that which is most important in his life. The man is unable to do what Jesus asks of him and goes away sad. Why sad? He's sad because he knows that he has been tested and failed. He knows that what he genuinely desired was within his reach but he needed to let go of his position, his status, his wealth, to be able to grasp what he desired in both hands.

**From the perspective of ... The Disciples:** 'What about us?' Peter cried. The disciples were staggered that Jesus could turn away the rich man so easily and declare how difficult it is to enter into the kingdom of God. They suddenly see themselves in the shoes of the rich man: what more do they have to do? They've left their homes and families to traipse after Jesus, believing that this sacrifice would be enough to assure them a place in the kingdom, and suddenly they are faced with doubts. Has it all been worth it? Jesus reminds them that if they have followed him for all the right reasons then their reward is assured.

**Have you thought? The Gospel of Prosperity:** There are those within the ranks of Christianity who preach what is sometimes referred to as a 'gospel of prosperity'. They claim that wealth is a sign of favour, or approval, from God. They feel that if a Christian person is wealthy then they must be living a 'good' life that God is rewarding through material possession. They use this as justification for further accumulation of wealth. We can see from today's gospel that Jesus would have something to say about such an interpretation! Jesus reminds us that our reward is not in this world in the form of wealth and material possessions, but in eternal life.

**Gospel Focus – Sacrifice:** Sacrifice is a term that gets used quite a lot in religion and yet it's a term with which modern society is very uncomfortable. We're not really 'into' sacrifice. We're much more into feeling good about ourselves and comfortable in our existence. Jesus called on the rich man to make a sacrifice – to let go of what he really loved and valued. What Jesus really called the man to do was to place his trust in Jesus and not in material wealth – that was the sacrifice he was called to make. Ultimately, the man couldn't do that! He couldn't let go of certainty and security and entrust his life and soul to Jesus.

Henri J. M. Nouwen: *The real danger facing us is to distrust our desire for communion. It is a God-given desire without which our lives lose their vitality and our hearts grow cold. We need friends. Friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, console us in times of pain. Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another.*

## **Raise your voices ...**

**Entrance antiphon:** If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

**Response to the Psalm:** Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

**Gospel acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

**Communion antiphon:** When the Lord appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

**Saint Luke the Evangelist  
Catholic Parish  
Blackburn South**

*We are Companions on the Journey ...*

[www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth](http://www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth)

Whitehorse Deanery  
Eastern Region  
Archdiocese of Melbourne

**Rev Father Gerard Johnson  
Parish Priest**

**Sonya O'Farrell  
Part-time Parish Secretary  
Wednesdays, Thursdays &  
Fridays  
10.00am – 2.00pm**

**Email:** [blackburnsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:blackburnsouth@cam.org.au)

**Website:**  
[www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth](http://www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth)

**SUNDAY MASS**

Saturday Vigil – 6:00pm  
Sunday – 8:30am & 10:30am

**WEEKDAY MASS & ROSARY**

**Tues. 11.00am  
Weds. – Sat. @ 9:00am**

Rosary prayed after Mass times as listed above. All welcome.

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 9.30am & 5.30pm

**EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION**

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration  
Wednesday  
Start: 7:00pm | End: 8:00pm

**WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS**

By appointment and six months (6) notice, please. *(This helps with the planning of both celebrations and Parents usually kindly nine months in advance when their baby is to be born).*

**St Luke the Evangelist  
Catholic Parish Primary School  
46 Orchard Grove,  
Blackburn South Vic 3130  
Tel: (03) 9877 4023**

**Mrs Jackie Purcell: Principal**

**Email:**  
[principal@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au)

**Website:**  
[stlukes@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au](http://stlukes@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au)

**Prayer to Saint Luke  
the Evangelist**

Lord God, who chose Saint Luke to reveal by his preaching and writings the mystery of your love for the poor, grant that those who already glory in your name may persevere as one heart and one soul and that all nations may merit to see your salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen!

*Patron Saint of artists, physicians, surgeons, students and butchers.*

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** all who are sick and for those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For those who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, may they all rest in peace.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK:** Ordinary Time. **Monday:** St Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor; **Tuesday:** St Hedwig, religious, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin; **Wednesday:** St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr; **Thursday:** St Luke, evangelist and Parish Patron; Friday; St John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, priests, and companions, martyrs, St Paul of the Cross, priest; **Saturday:** Saturday Mass of the BVM; **Sunday Masses:** Eucharistic Prayer for use in Masses for Various Needs II - God guides the Church along the Way of Salvation. Euch. Accl. No. I.

**MONTH OF OCTOBER:** The months of May and **October** are special months on the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar, dedicated to the veneration of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. An opportunity to pray for Married Life and Family Life with the intercession of the Mother of the Church. Pope Francis invites the faithful to pray the Rosary in October <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-09/pope-francis-pray-rosary-october.html>

**A VOCATION VIEW:** "The word of God is living and effective." To know the Scriptures, is to know Christ. Maintain a pattern of reading the Scriptures daily to help hear the call you have been given by God. (Hebrews 4:12)

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." MARK 10:25 Jesus uses tough language that we may not want to hear. But, we are all called to be generous with all our gifts. Not just the ones we pick and choose, but all our gifts: our time in prayer to God, our talent in participating in parish ministries and our treasure supporting our local parish and other charities.

**WEEK 2 OF OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PROGRAM – 'FAITH':** It's the second week of the Program – but the first of the three themes. This week emphasises the importance of coming together as a parish community to celebrate our faith and to committing to growing in faith. *During these weeks it will be in all our best interests to be on our best behaviour because now that homes in our Parish have received their 'Welcome' invitation people within them may choose to be with us again. It is up to all of us regulars to receive them well, make them feel welcome and encourage them to become a member of the Parish family of families once again.* Come to 'Our Future' Forum on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Church - to either the 10.00 am or the 7.30 pm session – and contribute to the discussion Please fill out an RSVP card today – it'll help us know how many parishioners are attending the sessions. Please **RETURN** your 'Groups and Ministries' form to the box on the Church notice table at your convenience. **Our** genuine thanks to the Parish Care Group for their enthusiastic and hospitable efforts providing the 'cuppa' for all of us after each of the Masses last weekend.

**STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PRAYER:** **Lord, we thank you for calling us to be your Church. Through our Baptism and Confirmation, we are called to service and to witness. In the Eucharist we sustain and strengthen that call. By serving others we follow your example and proclaim our beliefs. By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our love and care. Lord, help us always to worship you as you deserve, to grow in faith and service and to give without counting the cost. We ask this and all our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**WEEK TWO – FAITH WEEKEND:** This week our Parish Expo focuses particularly on **Groups and Ministries** in Liturgy and Faith Development. Parishioners are invited and encouraged to review the list of groups and ministries identified in the 'Parish Groups & Ministries two-page Form' (available on our Parish website too); this is an opportunity to prayerfully discern and explore how your unique gifts can be used to make a difference in our Parish; what special gifts and talents God might be calling you to share. Through the gifts of time and talent our Parishioners generously share, we are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our parish community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff7Yb9fobCg>

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST ANNUAL THANKYOU TO PARISHIONERS BBQ:** Yes it will be on again this year as usual, Sunday 21 October. After the last Sunday morning Mass, the Parish's Annual Feast Day Picnic & BBQ will be ready, there will be an Art Exhibition in our Parish Primary School and a Parish 'Groups & Ministries' Expo in our Parish Hall to provide information about what our Parish does/offers and an invitation to you to consider becoming more involved by any service you would like to do.

**THE 6PM CHOIR** will serve again tonight 13<sup>th</sup> & on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**NEWSLETTER NOTICES:** Please send to the following e-mail address by **Wednesday 5pm** – [BlackburnSouth@cam.org.au](mailto:BlackburnSouth@cam.org.au)

**AS A FOLLOW UP** to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference social justice statement for 2018–2019 '**A PLACE TO CALL HOME: MAKING A HOME FOR EVERYONE IN OUR LAND**' You are invited to a Housing and Homelessness Forum on 24 October. The forum will bring together parishioners and parish leaders with relevant Catholic service agencies to consider how parishes can contribute to resolving the housing crisis for people in our communities. Click here for a [flyer](#) and for a [program](#) for the event.

- Wednesday 24 October, 5.30 for 6.00 – 8.45pm
- St Columba's Parish Centre 24 Glenhuntly Road, Elwood
- Rsvp [www.trybooking.com/YHAV](http://www.trybooking.com/YHAV)

## PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

		<u>13 AND 14 OCT. 2018</u>	<u>20 AND 21 OCT. 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Olive Hammill	Ian Holmes
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Kana Chelliah	Melina Barcellona
	10:30 AM	Sonya O'Farrell	Margaret Gearon

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD

		<u>13 AND 14 OCT. 2018</u>	<u>20 AND 21 OCT. 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Mary Wighting	Kathryn Holmes
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Beryl Chelliah	Kana Chelliah
	10:30 AM	Steve Kilroe-Smith	Jess Kilroe-Smith

### WELCOMER'S ROSTER

		<u>13 AND 14 OCT. 2018</u>	<u>20 AND 21 OCT. 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Lorraine Kermond	Terry Wells
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Rosemary Donaldson	Joe Brogno
	10:30 AM	Pam & Michael	Mary Taranto

### SLIDE OPERATORS

		<u>13 AND 14 OCT. 2018</u>	<u>20 AND 21 OCT. 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Choir	Tony Lobo
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Mary White	Megan McLean
	10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

### CHURCH FLOWERS

13 OCT. 2018  
Val Wells & Marie Parker  
20 OCT. 2018  
Lesley Cornick & Toni Plevier

### CHURCH CLEANING

20 OCT. 2018  
Team 6 (Sonya's Team)  
Sonya O'Farrell, Rose Knight,  
& Joe Brogno

### MAINTENANCE

20 OCT. 2018  
Team 6  
Barry Rawlines & Tim Blair

## WELCOME BACK TO OUR PARISH SCHOOL COMMUNITY THIS WEEK FROM

**HOLIDAYS:** As Term 4 begins we wish Jackie Purcell and all her Professional Colleagues well and pray that it is a fruitful time for them and for all our Young Parishioners and their families, especially Year 6's who leave us at the end of this term.

**PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO VIEW THE ST LUKE'S ART EXHIBITION: 'A Trip Around the World'.** Date: Sunday 21st October, after the 10:30am Mass Venue: Discovery Centre, after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 21st October. **Entrance Fee:** Gold Coin Donation. Monica Adams, a talented artist from the Mornington Peninsula (and aunt to some St Luke's students) has painted an original piece for our school and parish. Toni Wynne is managing the Raffle ticket sales from the counter in our Church Foyer after the 10.30am Mass tomorrow and on Sunday 21st October. Your support is very much appreciated.

**TALK AND TOUR MORNINGS: 15 OCTOBER, 23 NOVEMBER** Our Lady of Sion College warmly invites prospective students and families to attend a Talk and Tour morning. Hear from our principal and take a tour with our Year 10 students to see our College in action. Tour mornings begin at 9.30 am; please allow enough time for parking. Register at [info@zion.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@zion.catholic.edu.au). Enrolment applications for Year 7, 2021, will open on 1 February 2019. For more info please see Flyer on Church Noticeboard.

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 21 OCTOBER 2018:** This week on The Journey, our Gospel is read by Nick Weir, Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom from the Abbey, Bruce Downes and The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes encourages us with his sage words. Our music is sourced from local artists and Australia wide Christian music artists who come together to help us make our program amazing. It is where faith, hope, love and life come together in the Journey. Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

**RELEASING THE GENIUS FROM WITHIN** – A workshop for spiritual directors and those accompanying others on their spiritual journey. Contemplative in nature, it will offer opportunities to explore how one might use creative arts to assist in the 'unfolding experience'. At Heart of Life, Box Hill, Saturday 20 October, 10am-4pm. Cost \$60 (BYO lunch). Enquiries and bookings - [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890 1101 or [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) For more info please see Flyer on Church Noticeboard.

**WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO:** 75 bite-size explanations of Catholic practices ©The Story Source, 1993. [TeresaPirolo.net](http://TeresaPirolo.net) **WHY CANDLES?** Ever been to Carols by Candlelight? If so, you will agree that there is something about the glow of candle flames on a dark night that evokes feelings of warmth, hope and festivity. No wonder, then, that Christians use candles as a symbol of the life and enlightenment that comes from God. The practice of using candles in the Christian liturgy is based on early Christian traditions of lighting candles in pre-dawn services, in the catacombs and on the graves of Christian martyrs. Next time you light a candle, pause to consider how you can bear the light of Christ to our troubled world. **GRACE BEFORE MEALS:** The practice of pausing at meal times to give thanks to God is a way of acknowledging the divine source of all our life-sustaining gifts. As many a family will attest, this brief prayerful interaction with God and with one another is a sure way of strengthening the bond of faith in a household. As one person put it: 'It's a bit like kissing my wife when I come home from work. It's only a small thing but it means a lot to our marriage.' Small habits build strong foundations! If only for your children's sake, make grace before meals part of your lifestyle.

**SAFETY STATEMENT:** We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and vulnerable adults in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds the care, safety, wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. <http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Policies.aspx>

## Parish Groups & Contacts

*Do not our hearts burn within us as we walk along ...*

**Lectors, Welcomers Collectors  
Extraordinary Ministers of the  
Eucharist, & Rosters**  
Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

**Children's Liturgy Group**  
Nina Grieve - 9877 4023  
Jess Kilroe-Smith - 0452 613 863

**Stewardship Counters**  
Dale Dixon - 0433 885 087  
Steve Kilroe-Smith - 0404 864 232

**Pastoral Council &  
Child Safety Officer**  
Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

**History**  
Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

**Whitehorse Deanery**

**Finance Council**  
Steve Brennan  
Parish Accountant

**Hall Hire**  
Parish Office - 9877 2292

**Care Group & Gardens**  
Judy Noy - 9894 1506

**Church Sacristan**  
Greg Grant 0401 644 474

**Church Linen**  
Toni Plevier

**Church Cleaning & Flowers**  
Megan McLean 9878 8691

**Maintenance**  
Bill Goodwin 9803 6056

**Holy Communion**  
to the housebound

**Parish & School Choirs**  
Maria Pinto, Lina Mafi  
0411 136 043

Marg Yore & Kat Bergin  
9877 4023

**Parish and School  
Fete Committee**

Jackie Purcell - 9877 4023

**Parish School Advisory Board**  
Jackie Purcell - 9877 4023

**Parish School  
Parents' Association**  
Jackie Purcell - 9877 4023

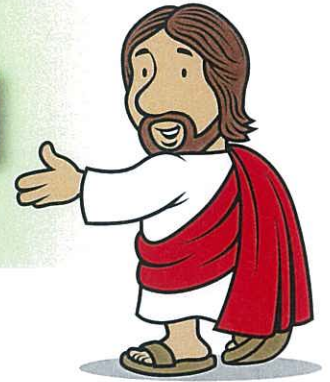
**St Vincent de Paul Conference**  
For Assistance: 1800 305 330  
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

**Parish Contact:**  
Margaret Gearon

### **RECRUITMENT NOTICE:**

*These Parish Groups welcome new members who choose to participate in the life of the Parish in these ways - would you like to make contact with one or more of them?*

# Follow the Lord



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

A man met Jesus on the road and asked him how we can have eternal life. Some of the things Jesus says we can do are written on the sign posts below. Fill in the missing words and pictures.

God tells us there are more important things in life than being rich or owning lots of possessions. Write or draw some things that are important in your life.

Complete the crossword - it uses picture as clues instead of words!

# St Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South



## PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2018

Welcome to week two of our Parish Stewardship Program and this week is all about FAITH.

We ask you to reflect on the importance of faith in your life. Is your faith the foundation of who

you are? Does it drive the way you choose to live your life?

We also ask you to re-affirm the importance of Sunday Mass – how we come together as a community to celebrate our faith. The Eucharist is something much bigger than ourselves – it is not a private or anonymous experience. The communal celebration of the Eucharist at Sunday Mass gives us the spiritual nourishment to live our lives as true disciples of Jesus.

Finally, this week we ask you to commit to growing in faith – to take the opportunity to learn and develop a mature understanding of our faith.

Fr Gerard will have a special Homily this weekend on this most important aspect of the Program.

### **'OUR FUTURE' FORUM**

A reminder that all parishioners are warmly invited to a special event as part of the Program – **'Our Future' Forum** on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 10.00 am and 7.30 pm in the Church. We are offering two session times, but you only need to attend one session time that suits you. It will be a great opportunity for you to contribute to the discussion on our priorities for the future.

Please complete the RSVP cards available at all Masses over the weekend, or the RSVP form on the parish website and indicate which session time you will attend.

### **WEBSITE UPDATE**

The dedicated Stewardship Program section this week features a special video from Monsignor Tony Ireland, Episcopal Vicar – Eastern Region of the Archdiocese.

### **THOUGHTS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM: *What does celebrating your faith as a parish community mean to you?***

"Celebrating my faith as a parish community means creating a sense of belonging and an opportunity to engage, support and give to those in need - be that at the parish level and the wider community, e.g. St Vincent de Paul."  
*Darren McLean*

"Family – when you are part of a parish community it is an extension of your family and a wonderful one you share common faith with."  
*Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

"It means we come together as a family to take stock and renew our commitment to be better Christians as we serve others."  
*Sonya O'Farrell*

"...it's a sense of belonging and celebrating our faith and fellowship with our larger community."  
*Kana Chellia*

"It means worshipping together and supporting each other in our beliefs, reinforcing each other's faith."  
*Steve Kilroe-Smith*

### **POPE FRANCIS SAYS**

*"In the Eucharist we feel this belonging to the Church, to the people of God, to the Body of God, to Jesus Christ."* 5 February 2014

# **A new Communion** – *Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own. Bread for the Journey*

by Henri Nouwen

When we ask people to become ‘*stewards*’ to strengthen or expand the work of the kingdom, we are also inviting them into a new spiritual communion. This is very important. In Paul’s letter to the Romans we read: “we are well aware that the whole creation, until this time, has been groaning in labour pains. And not only that: we too, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we are groaning inside ourselves, waiting with eagerness for our bodies to be set free” (Rom. 8:22-23). This groaning comes from deep within us, and indeed from within all creation. It is the sound of our yearning for communion with God and with one another, a communion that transcends the limitations of time and space.

At the same time, this groaning also expresses God’s passionate yearning for communion with us and all that God created. God desires “that the whole creation itself might be freed from its slavery to corruption and brought into the same glorious freedom as the children of God” (Rom. 8:21). This is the freedom of true spiritual communion. Asking *Parishioners to become good Stewards* is a way to call people into this communion with us. It is saying, “We want you to get to know us”. Gathered together by our common yearning, we begin to know this communion as we move together toward our vision.

How does spiritual communion manifest itself concretely? When fundraising as ministry call us together in communion with God and with one another, it must hold out the real possibility of friendship and community. People have such a need for friendship and for community that fundraising has to be community-building. I wonder how many churches and charitable organisations realise that community is one of the greatest gifts they have to offer. If we ask for money, it means that we offer a new fellowship, a new brotherhood, a new sisterhood, a new way of belonging. We have something to offer - friendship, prayer, peace, love, fidelity, affection, ministry with those in need - and these things are so valuable that people are willing to make their resources available to sustain them. Fundraising must always aim to create new, lasting relationships. I know people whose lives centre around the friendship they find in churches, monasteries, service organisations, and international Christian communities. These people visit or volunteer, and it is in these settings that they find nurture and support. If these people have money, they will give it; but that is not the point. When compared with new freedom and new friends in a new communion, the money is the least interesting thing.

Spiritual communion also reveals itself in new fruitfulness. Here the radical nature of fundraising as ministry becomes clear. In the world, those who raise funds must show potential donors a strategic plan that convinces donors their money will help to increase the productivity and success of the organisation. In the new communion, productivity and success may also grow as a result of fundraising. But they are only by-products of a deeper creative energy, the energy of love planted and nurtured in the lives of people in and through our relationship with Jesus. With the right environment and patient care, these seeds can yield a great harvest, “thirty and sixty and a hundredfold” (Mark 4:20). Every time we approach people for money, we must be sure that we are inviting them into this vision of fruitfulness and into a vision that is fruitful. We want them to join us so that together we begin to see what God means when God says, “Be fruitful” (Gen. 1:28).

Finally, I would like to return to the relationship between money and we who seek it through fundraising. Just as the work of building the community of love asks us to be converted in our attitude toward money, so also this same activity invites each of us to greater faithfulness to our personal call, our unique vocation. Our own call must be deepened and strengthened as a result of our fundraising. Sometimes this brings us right to the heart of our struggle with our vocation. During my own fundraising work, people have said to me: “I will give you money if you will take up the challenge to be a better pastor, if you will stop being so busy and be more faithful to your vocation. You run around and talk your head off, but you don’t write enough. I know that this is difficult for you – to shut the door and sit behind your desk and not speak to anyone, but I hope that my contribution will support you in your writing”. This is part of the fruitfulness of the community of love. By calling us to deeper commitment to our particular ministry, fundraising helps to make visible the kingdom that is already among us.